

from across the political spectrum. Perhaps more importantly, attempts to resolve, by judicial fiat, important issues like abortion and the expression of religious belief in the public square increase social strife and conflict. The only way to resolve controversial social issues like abortion and school prayer is to restore respect for the right of State and local governments to adopt policies that reflect the beliefs of the citizens of those jurisdictions. I would remind my colleagues and the Federal judiciary that, under our Constitutional system, there is no reason why the people of New York and the people of Texas should have the same policies regarding issues such as marriage and school prayer.

Unless Congress acts, a State's authority to define and regulate marriage may be the next victim of activist judges. After all, such a decision would simply take the Supreme Court's decision in the Lawrence case, which overturned all State sodomy laws, to its logical conclusion. Congress must launch a preemptive strike against any further Federal usurpation of the States' authority to regulate marriage by removing issues concerning the definition of marriage from the jurisdiction of Federal courts.

Although marriage is licensed and otherwise regulated by the States, government did not create the institution of marriage. Government regulation of marriage is based on State recognition of the practices and customs formulated by private individuals interacting in civil institutions, such as churches and synagogues. Having Federal officials, whether judges, bureaucrats, or congressmen, impose a new definition of marriage on the people is an act of social engineering profoundly hostile to liberty.

It is long past time that Congress exercises its authority to protect the republican government of the States from out-of-control Federal judges. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

CONGRATULATING DR. EDWARD R. MOSLEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Edward R. Mosley of Fresno, as the honored recipient of the Community Health Champion Award from West Fresno Health Care Coalition.

The life of Dr. Edward Mosley has been extraordinary in every aspect. He has broken barriers, opened doors and won the hearts of all who know him.

Dr. Mosley was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1924. He grew up in a time where his skin color was the determining factor for his career goals. However, Edward continued on in his quest to reform the outlook of many African Americans in the Nation. He is truly a revolutionary in this regard and has not slowed down since.

Education has been a primary focus of Dr. Mosley since the age of 4 when he begged his grandmother to teach him how to read. He began school at age 6 and immediately excelled in all subjects. He became the "talk of the town" because of his intelligence. His

school quickly adapted to their new star student by providing him with an advanced education. Edward graduated from high school at the age of 17 and was forced to take a year off before attending college. However, never deterred, he resumed his academic career and attended the University of Illinois. Ever the steadfast student, he worked to put himself through college and graduated to attend Meharry Medical School. He completed his medical internship at Harlem Hospital in New York and his residency at Tuskegee Veterans Hospital in Alabama. Dr. Mosley also spent two years in the United States Army where he was in charge of a prisoner of war camp in Korea.

It was the desire to live in California that initially brought Edward to Fresno. He established a medical office in the private sector and eventually collaborated with other doctors in the community to create the Westview Convalescent Hospital in Fresno. In recognition of Edward's accomplishments, he was the first African American elected official in Fresno when he was elected to serve on the State Community College Board of Trustees. Edward also served on many other boards in the community in efforts to advance the San Joaquin Valley.

Dr. Mosley has an impressive resumé that details his extensive professional career; however, it has been his outstanding devotion to community service and contributions to the medical community of Fresno for which he is being honored now. He has received many honors and recognitions, including being a Delegate to the Presidential Electoral College appointed by Governor Reagan in 1972, and being named honorary Mayor of Fresno for Contributions to the Community.

It is a tremendous honor to stand today and publicly recognize Dr. Edward Mosley for all of his contributions to the community. It is a privilege to extend congratulations to Dr. Mosley on behalf of the 20th District of California.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2528,
MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill which contains critical funding for Oregon veterans and their health programs. In addition, this bill contains funding for the BRAC process and military construction and housing that are important for Department of Defense efficiency and quality of life. I am disappointed that this conference report cut funds from the BRAC 1990 Account which is used to clean up unexploded ordnance and other contamination on closed military bases from a House-passed \$378 million to \$255 million. I will continue to work with Congress to ensure the military cleans up after itself and returns sites to productive use.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF
LANCE CORPORAL NICKOLAS D.
SCHIAVONI

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that I rise to recognize the death of LCpl Nickolas D. Schiavoni—a brave Marine who served with dignity and honor in Iraq. I join his family and the people of Rhode Island in mourning this great loss.

On Tuesday, November 15, Lance Corporal Schiavoni was killed by a suicide bomber near Karmah, Iraq, while conducting combat operations with his unit. He served with the 2nd Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Lance Corporal Schiavoni, age 26, was raised in Haverhill, Massachusetts; his mother, Stephany Kern, resides in Westerly, Rhode Island. This was Lance Corporal Schiavoni's second tour of duty in Iraq. He joined the Marines after meeting his wife, Gina Howe Schiavoni, who now lives with their two children, Marissa, 5, and Alex, 3, in North Carolina.

Lance Corporal Schiavoni's service as a Marine demonstrates his commitment to our nation's freedom. He was awarded a Purple Heart during his first tour of duty and died supporting a fellow member of his unit in an investigation of a suspicious vehicle. The humility, dedication and courage that helped him to flourish in the service are also visible in his life at home—those who knew him well highlight the deep reverence he held for his wife and family.

His loss causes us to reflect on the bravery demonstrated by our men and women in uniform as they carry out their obligations in the face of danger. When their nation called them to duty to preserve freedom, liberty and the security of their neighbors, they answered without hesitation. We remember those who have fallen not only as soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, but also as patriots who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. May we keep their loved ones in our thoughts and prayers as they struggle to endure this difficult period and mourn the heroes America has lost.

We will continue to hope for the safe and speedy return of all of our troops serving throughout the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE H. E.
DOUGLAS, SR. MEMORIAL NEW
SHOES FOR LITTLE FEET FOUN-
DATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Douglas and New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation. The New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation collects and distributes new shoes to needy children within the community of The Colony, Texas.

The H. E. Douglas, Sr. Memorial New Shoes for Little Feet Foundation was founded